

The Hampden-Sydney Tiger

September 16, 2020 “The Hampden-Sydney student will behave as a gentleman at all times and in all places.” Issue XCX.3

TIGER WRECK: Assessing the State of Hampden-Sydney’s Gym

ZAC RICHMAN '22
STAFF WRITER

“Right now, there are no immediate plans for upgrades.” --Chad Eisele, Director of Athletics

“I know nothing about excess budget or new equipment.” --Betsy Leonard, Director of TigeRec

“We certainly look at replacing some equipment and do each year, but until we are through this pandemic, we aren’t purchasing anything.” --Chad Eisele, Director of Athletics

These quotes are from TigeRec administration. One would assume in a school full of scholarly gentlemen, the three best kept facilities



Photo courtesy of Zac Richman

would be the library, the dining hall and the gym. Unfortunately, some of those facilities at this campus have been falling apart and have been long before the issue of COVID-19. “[The] quality of the equipment could be much better . . . very rusty, very outdated,” says Bjoré Samard ’21. “Some of the barbells could be replaced, because they’re bent so much,” suggested John Hatcher Ferguson ’22, adding that “it almost becomes sort of a safety hazard.” Some of the common complaints include: barbells covered in rust so rough that you can’t get clips on, pulley machines with half the grips missing, rusted over and peeling weights, stick-

Continue reading on page 2

BENJAMIN HAGER '23
STAFF WRITER

Aided by a \$10,000 grant from PepsiCo and help from students and faculty, HSC’s recycling program has been on an upward trend over the past year. Scott Schmolesky, Director of High

shed, deposit the bags in a gray shed, and then we presort the plastic and aluminum, and then we head to Steps Inc., which is an organization just outside of Farmville. Steps employs developmentally disabled adults to manage the recycling, so they separate the recycling and package it, replace the bins, but this year we are able to use a golf cart to retrieve the bins which is nice because I can just pull right up to the buildings. We have blue bins with the recycling symbol on them which helps to distinguish them from a normal trash can. It makes it more eye catching for

College Puts \$10,000 PepsiCo Grant to Work: Excitement Bubbles

Adventure and advisor to the Outsiders Club and the new Disc Golf Club, is also the faculty member in charge of the recycling program. In an interview, Schmolesky explained to how the recycling program is set up, saying: “This is a student run program, and currently I supervise it but myself and the students manage the bins. The way it works is, we pick the bins up and take them to a central

and then it goes off from there to various locations for the actual recycling.” Coleman Meadows ’22 became involved with the recycling program last spring and has high hopes for the program. “I had John’s Auditorium and Brown as my two locations last year, which wasn’t too bad because it was about four bins. I would collect them about once a week. Now, I have about eight locations. Last year I would take my car around campus to

students who are going in and out of buildings, and it’s like, why not recycle when the bin is right there rather than throwing something recyclable in the trash can? Recycling wasn’t that big of a deal during my freshman year, but we’re hoping that if we keep the recycling program growing that it will become a habit for the freshmen and classes in the future.” Schmolesky explained that the \$10,000 grant from PepsiCo

Continue reading on page 3

These Kids and Their Darn (Head)Phones

BRENNAN VAUGHT '21
STAFF WRITER

Here at the most distinct college in the world, we value our traditions. One of my personal favorites is the signing of the Honor Code, followed closely by the way our students acknowledge each other when they meet on campus. However, in my three short years here, I have noticed that this tradition is fading away—and if you look around, you will see it too. This diminishing tradition is what sets us apart from every other college and university in the world. We are no state school, packed with thousands of students who are just another number in their school’s statistics. We are Sydney: a thousand guys who know each other by face and name; a thousand guys who support each other no matter what; a thousand guys whose school is their home. When I look around, I see heads down, eyes glued to phones, and headphones in. I see guys who are entranced by their screens and oblivious to the great campus around them—oblivious to their brothers. I see the Sydney I love

Continue reading on page 2

A Night of Rememberance: Hillen Speaks on 9/11

DANIEL NIVENS '24
GUEST WRITER

Last Thursday, on the eve of September 11, students and faculty gathered in the Wilson Center and Gilmer 019 to virtually



hear from Dr. John Hillen, Hampden-Sydney’s recently-hired Wheat Professor of Leadership. In his opening remarks, Hillen described 9/11 as “a deeply human story.” In addition to the 2,996 people

lost in the attacks and the 4,491 soldiers who lost their lives in the Iraq War, Hillen reminded the participants that countless lives were touched, stating: “You can’t imagine how many lives have been affected by such

a catastrophic event.” Although 19 years removed from 9/11, in Hillen’s estimation, “We are still in this Long War,” fighting continuing terrorist threats across the Middle East. After these

opening remarks, the various classes participating in the event broke into small groups to discuss 9/11 from the different focuses of the professors. A student from each class then spoke about 9/11 from the perspectives of culture, leadership, national security, and domestic policies affecting human stories. Hillen spoke briefly on each of these topics after the student presented. On leadership, Hillen posited that “Strategy is the focus of leadership.” He questioned participants about

whether the United States had been cohesive in its strategy post-9/11. On that note, Hillen asked whether the United States should take a policy of strong defense or aggressive offense. Did the United States have a role in “policing” the Middle East, or should we only vigorously protect our own borders? Hillen gave no definitive answer, leaving it to the participants

to decide. He encouraged both sides of the argument, whether of fence or defense, to help prevent growing radicalism in the Arab world. Above all, Hillen argued in favor of an intelligent remembrance. 9/11 is first about mourning those who were lost and then finding a way to prevent future attacks. As good men and good citizens, we must never forget.



Photo courtesy of H-SC

Campus Garden Blossoms into Success

DRAKE KALINOWSKI '23
GUEST WRITER

As many members of our campus community are likely aware, the campus garden got into full swing last year. Shortly before the COVID-19 outbreak, Club Sports & Intramurals Director Matt Griswold and the

community of Hampden-Sydney stepped up to ensure the survival of this new project. Together, they worked to grow various plants in the Hampden-Sydney greenhouse, which were then transplanted into the garden when the growing season began. The plants that began in the green-

house are listed below. They also established a border for the garden by using materials salvaged from the reconstruction of the baseball outfield fence. This fence was established to keep the local deer population from destroying the crops planted there. A water tank is used to irrigate the

garden, and a rainwater collection system may be implemented later this school year. During the spring planting season, the seeds nurtured in the greenhouse were moved by members of the community to their place in the garden. These crops

Continue reading on page 3

NEWS

PepsiCo, cont'd

the recycling program received last spring has been instrumental in helping to expand recycling on campus, but it goes towards more than just that. “The other part of that is the water stations on campus where you can fill up water bottles, those require a fair amount of servicing which can be expensive. Twice a year you have to replace those filters, so half of the grant money is going towards mainly supplying those filters and servicing those machines and the other half is going towards purchasing more bins to go around campus.”

You heard about the toilet paper shortage, but did you know that there has also been an aluminum shortage during the COVID-19 pandemic? Schmolesky explained to me that when the pandemic hit, people bought a large amount of canned drinks, especially the flavored water La Croix.

This aluminum shortage has had an adverse effect on recycling, Scott says. “The recycling stream is sensitive, so if there is a large run on aluminum and they don’t have recycled aluminum coming back down the pipeline, it makes it difficult to package new things in aluminum cans. Aluminum is one of the most easily recycled materials. You can have a 60-day

turnaround from when you drink a can of Pepsi to when it is repackaged on the shelf after being recycled, so that’s a big focus right now.”

Scott emphasized aluminum cans and plastic bottles as being essential to the recycling program right now, but also explained that not all “recyclable” materials can be recycled.

“The two most easily recyclable materials are cans and plastic bottles. If you have a plastic water bottle, they are untainted, so if you can put those in a recycling bin, that’s big. Unfortunately, if something is tainted, like a pizza box, we usually can’t recycle that. If you throw in a drink cup that’s half full, that’s probably going to get thrown out anyway. If students really want to help, it helps to rinse out drink bottles. The cleaner it is when it’s thrown in the bin, the more useful it will be.”

Meadows left me with this message: “I think that this article will be really good because it will raise awareness for the program. That’s a big part of it, the more people know about the program, the better. This sort of thing helps to make a name for the program by letting people know that it’s here for good and that it’s something that helps the Hampden-Sydney community as well as Prince Edward County.”



Photo courtesy of

Garden, cont'd

included lettuces, peas, turnips, beans, radishes, corn, squash, eggplant, watermelon, cantaloupe, various peppers, zucchini, cucumbers, shallots, tomatoes, and a multitude of herbs.

The growth season was very successful, with only a single tomato plant claimed by the late frost this past spring. Griswold and those involved with the garden will be meeting

sometime this semester to discuss the garden’s

chemical free, barring some Dawn brand dish soap used to prevent pests from eating the to-

the campus community, students and staff alike.

Volunteers are the absolute most important facet to making a program like this work. Interested parties should watch for an email from Griswold about the garden and how they can be part of this new program.

If you wish to assist with the garden, your reward will be some quiet, peaceful breaks from our intense ten-week term.

The idea of the program is to share the fruits of the garden with the campus community, students and staff alike.

success thus far, as well as what to plant during the fall planting cycle.

The garden is

atoes. The idea of the program is to share the fruits of the garden with

Office of Admissions Accepts Challenges Posed by Virus

MICHAEL VAN CITTERS ‘22
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

As COVID-19 precautions and restrictions change the college admissions game, Hampden-Sydney’s Office of Admissions strives to distinguish itself with new approaches to tours, counseling, and information sessions. With regard to applications, the Office reports cautious optimism.

“Everybody and their brother are trying to find ways to be creative [in admissions],” said Jason Ferguson, Dean of Admissions, in an interview. “The way we’re tweaking things is trying to be creative in the ways we’re connecting . . . our faculty, staff, and students to prospective students.”

Emphasizing the importance of estab-

lishing a personal connection with applicants, Ferguson explained that the Office’s strategy in overcoming the challenges is, perhaps ironically, to do just what it has always done.

“Because we know with COVID[-19] that most kids are virtual or remote and may not have the same guidance they have had from their high schools,” Ferguson pointed out, “our staff is doing additional outreach just

your way.” Ferguson added that the Office is requiring all guests to go through the same physical distancing procedures that the College requires of the students.

This semester, in-person campus tours will be led only by members of the admissions staff while most of the Garnet and Gray Society’s functions are temporarily put on hold.

Despite the hiatus on in-person student tours, however, “the

Garnet and Gray Society is still being utilized in a virtual format,” Ferguson reported. For high-school students unable to make it to campus in person, the Admissions Office now offers virtual tours of the College.

Student tour guides can offer a remote but personal experience by connecting to a Zoom call by cellphone and then placing their cellphones into their breast pock-

ets with the cellphone’s camera facing forward. Additionally, if a prospective student wants to speak to a current student one-on-one, he will be given the opportunity to speak with a member of the Garnet and Gray Society in a virtual setting.

In addition to the virtual tours, the College is hosting a virtual open house every Wednesday and offering general information sessions featuring students, faculty and staff, moderated by an admissions staff member.

Although the conducting of open houses over Zoom are meant as a way for the College to continue outreach at a safe distance while COVID-19 restrictions are in place, Ferguson mentioned

life at Hampden-Sydney. “We try to take a snippet of life here, and whether it’s athletics, whether

that they get to see life on campus, they get to speak with somebody.”

Ferguson also

“The majority of the families that have visited have been pleased at the fact that they get to see life on campus, they get to speak with somebody.”

it’s the outdoor program [or any other] specialized part of student life, [we’re doing an event for it],” Ferguson explained. We’re allowing our young men to sign up for as many as they want and hopefully keeping them engaged throughout the process and bringing this place to life.

The College’s admissions staff has also begun to take advantage of the outdoor seating areas adjacent to Graham Hall, not only to facilitate physical distancing but also to allow prospective students the opportunity to experience campus life first hand. “The majority of the families that have visited have been pleased at the fact

commented briefly on the state of applications this fall. Last year, he mentioned, the Office of Admissions began a shift away from the Rolling Admission (RA) model and toward the more traditional system with options for Early Action (EA), Early Decision (ED), and Regular Decision (RD). As of now the Office is receiving applications for all different admissions plans.

While he declined to give any specifics about the number of applications the Office of Admissions has received, Ferguson mentioned that, “as any admissions officer would ever tell you, I’m cautiously optimistic about where we are right now [in terms of applications].”

Though there is a massive amount of work yet to be done, “it’s worth people being optimistic about where we are and optimistic about where we’re going.”

“It’s great to have the apps, don’t get me wrong—it’s wonderful. But we still have a long ways to go.” To put it one way, he said, “we’ve got a good number of applications, but we have yet to admit one of those students.”

. . . the College’s admissions officers are taking on two roles right now: that of the admissions counselor and that of the high-school college counselor . . .

The Office of Admissions has also continued to host guests on a regular basis, a practice that many institutions abandoned in the wake of COVID-19.

that virtual events will likely continue to be an option for prospective students after the pandemic as well, suggesting that they might even be “the new norm.”

In addition to the weekly open houses, on Tuesdays and Thursdays the Admissions Office hosts events highlighting a certain part of



Photo courtesy of Kaleidoscope 1989

OPINION

Editorial: Is Following the Rules Worth It? *Yes.*

MICHAEL VAN CITTERS '22
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Is it really worth it to wear masks and keep our distance from one another like the College asks us to? In this editorial, I do not mean to make a moral case for wearing a mask but rather to lay out several scenarios and allow readers make their own judgments

Table 1	Students Get Sent Home (1)	Students Stay at H-SC (2)
Students Practice Masks and Distancing (A)	discomfort while interacting with others; education stifled by virtual learning; administration in awkward position	discomfort while interacting with others; education furthered by in-person classes; success for administration
Students Do Not Practice Masks and Distancing (B)	comfort while interacting with others; education stifled by virtual learning; administration in awkward position	comfort while interacting with others; education furthered by in-person classes; success for administration

about whether or not it is worth it to make sacrifices in the pursuit of one scenario over another. Let us first consider some possible scenarios independent of whether or not masks and physical/social distancing are effective (see table 1). Considering the discomfort of wearing a mask and socially distancing, the inefficacy of virtual instruction, and the way the Col-

lege’s administration will be perceived publicly, it seems reasonable to rank the options from worst to best as follows: **A1, B1, A2, B2.**
Scenario A1
This is the option in which nobody wins. It is the one in which everyone wears a mask and practices physical and social distancing and the one in which these practices prove ineffective. It is also the one in which the administration has egg on its face, because it relied heavily on prevention methods that were ineffective.
Scenario B1
It’s no secret that no one enjoys wearing a mask, so the discomfort of students, faculty, and staff is worth considering. Option **B1** is marginally better than **A1** and would be the preferred alternative to **A1** only insofar as it facilitates a slight amount of comfort in people’s interactions.
Scenario A2
In this scenario, everyone reaps the benefits of learning or teaching or working with other people in-person. Additionally, the administration will have suc-

ceeded in both keeping the community safe and accommodating online classes. In this scenario, however, the campus community must endure the burden of wearing masks on a regular basis.
Scenario B2
In a perfect world, we could have it all. And that is what this scenario would look like. All the benefits of option **A2** without the discomfort of people being required to wear masks. In considering the three variables of comfort, education medium, and the College’s image, one must recognize the discrep-

Table 2	Students Practice Masks and Distancing (3)	Students Do Not Practice Masks and Distancing (4)
Masks and Distancing Are Effective (C)	COVID-19 is contained; students remain on campus	COVID-19 spreads; students are sent home
Masks and Distancing are Not Effective (D)	COVID-19 spreads; students sent home	COVID-19 spreads; students are sent home

of parties, it is asinine to think that such mild discomfort is in any meaningful way commensurable with the loss we would all suffer by being sent home to have classes online. We lose far more by going online

and that wearing one is pointless. I have no claim to make about the efficacy or the inefficacy of wearing masks and practicing physical distancing—I know nothing of the science (or lack thereof) behind the matter. Let us eschew, however, the question of whether masks and distancing are effective or not and turn to a new set of scenarios that will illuminate how we should act in the absence of a definitive answer (see table 2). I will not rank these scenarios from best to worst but rather ask you, the reader, to think about the position you are in and, given that position, whether

We lose far more by going online than we do by forgoing the pleasures of partying and unmasked faces.

ancy in the weight given to each variable. Although members of the community are by now quite familiar with the discomfort wrought by mask-wearing and the frustration at the lack

than we do by forgoing the pleasures of partying and unmasked faces. I have heard some say, however, that masks are ineffective as a means for preventing the spread COVID-19

Continue reading on page 6

Sydney Life: Essays on the Essence of Sydney

KEIFER PFISTER '21
STAFF WRITER

I am a Hampden-Sydney radical. I do not associate my time on campus as ‘going to college’ or simply ‘getting an education’, it is more than that to me. To me, attending Sydney is about acceptance of fundamental values in pursuit of a noble goal. Those underlying values are that of the honor code and gentlemanly brotherhood, and the noble pursuit is that of an education as a good man and good citizen. To me the essence of Sydney is acting as an honorable gentleman in pursuit of being a good man and good citizen. I do not deceive myself in believing that the College always pursues policies that promote these principles, nor that the students themselves act out this idealistic vision of the college’s mission. Both the institution and the student body itself are imperfect, often in obvious ways. The discrepancies between an

idealistic vision of what Hampden-Sydney ought to be and what she is can lead to differing attitudes on the body itself. **Pessimists** choose to believe that the values and mission were always a lie or a slick marketing trick. They view Sydney as any other place with extra gloss to sell to suckers. Activists, whom I have particular contempt for, see the idea of Hamden-Sydney as antiquated. They claim that not only is her mission and values a lie but furthermore they are an evil lie that must be excised. Rather than seek to perfect the school towards what she could be they tear down the traditions and character of the school and attempt to divide the brotherhood when we should be unified. Others lose hope and suggest that while the values of the college might have been pursued before, time has passed Sydney by and made what she stood for irrelevant. To them Sydney is a dying relic of the past. The ignorant do not

JONAH POPP '21
OPINION EDITOR

“Oh many a peer of England brews / Livelier liquor than the Muse / And malt does more than Milton can / To justify God’s ways to man.”
A.E. Housman wrote this witty phrase in one of his most famous poems from A Shropshire Lad. Although today many use this quotation to justify the drinking of alcohol, Housman goes on to write: “And faith, ‘tis pleasant till ‘tis past: / The mischief is that ‘twill not last.”
Beer is delicious and enjoyable, but

contemplate Sydney at all. To them Sydney is just another college, and the underlying mission and values matter no more than the mission of Longwood. The radicals disagree with all of them. We believe that Sydney is a good place. We believe that her underlying values are good and should be pursued. We believe that the mission is noble and we can revive a culture of gentlemanly conduct. I think there are

Books Better than Beer?

if you drink it simply for its intoxicating effect, you will be sorely disappointed one day.

Although the subject of my last article was concerned with using Tiger Dollars to purchase T.I. beers, a professor I respect deeply pointed out that allowing students to purchase books at the bookstore would be far more beneficial to the student body than allow-



Photo courtesy of pexels.com

ing them to buy beers. As much as I do love and enjoy drinking a beer with friends at the Tiger Inn, the ancient practice of reading a book (or even of purchasing one to begin with) seems to be fading in our modern day. A few years ago, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics published a study not too long ago which shows that the time spent reading for

pleasure by the average American citizen has fallen by over thirty percent just from the year 2004 to the year 2017. As our world becomes increasingly filled with distraction and cheap entertainment, many are falling away from their old passions for reading at an alarming rate, and many who otherwise would have read for pleasure, are not doing so. After just a quick Google search, anyone can see that there is a plethora of studies which have linked reading for pleasure with academic success. That being said, one ought not to read for

Continue reading on page 5

VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE: Why the Return to In-Person Learning Should Not Be Controversial

PATRICK STRITE '24
GUEST WRITER

Controversial debates have arisen across the country as to whether colleges and universities should have held in person classes this fall semester. The reason behind the controversy is the infamous COVID-19 pandemic. Some schools opted to hold online classes, while others, including Hampden-Sydney College, opted to

hold in person learning. Given the nature of Hampden-Sydney’s rural setting and small population, the administration made the correct decision in holding in person classes. Current CDC data shows that 18-29 year olds lead all other age groups with 1,083,747 cases, yet only 735 deaths. This roughly equates to a .067% death rate. To put this into perspective, the 85 and older age group has 156,341 cases and 44,875

deaths, which roughly equates to a 28.7% death rate. This means 18-29 year olds have had nearly seven times as many cases, and sixty-one times fewer deaths than those 85 years and older. To put it blunt-

ly, 18-22 year olds, which constitute a majority of residents at Hampden-Sydney, are at no risk of dying of COVID-19. The real risk lies within our elderly populations, but not all elderly individuals.

More CDC data shows that only 6% of all COVID-19 deaths had COVID-19 as the only contributing factor. That means 94% of all deaths were patients with comorbidities. Now that we know this, it is easy to protect those who are at high risk of dying of COVID-19. College students, staff, and professors are fully capable of determining their potential risk level. 18-22 years olds are, however, at risk of dying of suicide caused by depression

and other mental illnesses onset from lack of social interaction and self-isolation that is formed as a result of policies like virtual classes. Recent Census Bureau data reports that one third of Americans are showing signs of clinical depression or anxiety; a huge jump from pre-pandemic numbers. Oftentimes, these individuals abuse harmful substances such as alcohol and drugs. According to the

Continue reading on page 5

SPORTS

Postseason Predictions

GIOVANNI NEEDHAM '21
STAFF WRITER

We're in the final stretch for our 2020 MLB season, and the postseason is getting closer and closer. There's a new playoff format this year that is just like the NBA's seeded structure for the National League and the American League. Before, division winners and two wild card teams from each league made the postseason. The playoff expansion has many unexpected teams like the Miami Marlins and the Seattle Mariners in the thick of things as the regular season winds down. We all saw last year what can happen when a team that is on a hot streak can do when they slide into the postseason as a wild card team. The Nationals won the World Series last year after they started off the year terribly, getting hot in July and

riding that hot streak all through October. With expanded playoffs, who knows what can happen. If the season were to end today, we'd be looking at some interesting postseason matchups. In the American League, the Athletics, Rays, White Sox, Twins, Blue Jays, Astros, Indians, and Yankees would round out the postseason bracket. The Athletics, Rays, Twins, Astros, Indians, and Yankees were all expected to find themselves in the playoffs, but no one expected the White Sox or Blue Jays to be playing as well as they have. And while the Yankees would still be postseason players, they were expected to blow the competition out of the water and finish no worse than second place in the division. They've been hit by injuries a lot this season, which has happened two years in a row now, and there isn't much you can do about

bad luck. While some superstars like Aaron Judge and Giancarlo Stanton have been placed on the injured list, Luke Voit has proven to be so much more than just a complementary piece on a stacked team. Before the season started, there were a few bold analysts who saw the White Sox putting all of their talent together and winning a lot of games this year, and they were right. Tim Anderson has continued to play some great baseball, building off of last year's success that won him a batting title. The offense on this team is one of the best in baseball, and it's one of the youngest. The top three in this lineup of Anderson, Eloy Jimenez, and Jose Abreu is one of the best in the big leagues. If they aren't hurting teams with the long ball, they are getting on base and table setting for run producers like Edwin Encarnacion, Yasmani Gran-

dal, and the young and talented Luis Robert. Oh, and in case you didn't know, they have James McCann as an overqualified back-up catcher. McCann is hitting .319 with 5 homers and a .934 OPS. Yeah, that's better than most teams' starter. While the White Sox are young and exciting, the Canadian team that is residing in Buffalo, New York right now has more youth. The Blue Jays are the biggest surprise of any American League team. We know about Vladly Jr. and Bo Bichette, and they were proactive this offseason, picking up the reigning NL ERA leader in Hyun-Jin Ryu and right hander Tanner Roark. No one could have predicted them to be sitting comfortably in second place, ranking higher than the Yankees, though. Teoscar Hernandez has been the biggest star on the team. He leads the team in home runs with 14, OPS with a .996 percentage, and RBI's with 27. He has been the offensive leader on this team, and contributions from youngsters like Cavan Biggio and Lourdes Gurriel have helped. Ryu has been the ace of the staff, posting an ERA of 3.19. The Jays sured up a shaky rotation by adding Robby Ray and Taijuan Walk-

er at the trade deadline. Lastly, their bullpen has been a huge plus for the Jays, even with Ken Giles spending a good period of time on the injured list. As far as the National League is concerned, if the season ended today, the eight teams to move on into the playoffs would be the Los Angeles Dodgers, the Atlanta Braves, the Chicago Cubs, the Surging San Diego Padres, the Miami Marlins, the St. Louis Cardinals, the Philadelphia Phillies, the San Francisco Giants. The Marlins, Cubs, and Padres are the biggest surprises on this list.

Continue reading on page 6



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Playing in a Bubble: The Unexpected Eastern Conference Finals

JACOB MYERS '21
STAFF WRITER

As the 2020 NBA season nears an end, two teams remain in the East: the Miami Heat and the Boston Celtics. While both teams are deep, talented, and well-coached, not many expected the destruction each team has left in their wake. The Miami Heat crushed the Indiana Pacers in a 4-0 sweep and toppled the Milwaukee Bucks in a 4-1 series. The Boston Celtics sent the Philadelphia 76ers home in a 4-1 series and took down the former champions, the Toronto Raptors, in a grueling 7 game series. Both the Heat and the Celtics have been undeniably focused during this playoff run, relying on each rotation player to give every ounce of effort possible. Each team is averaging over 20+ assists per game with 5+ players scoring over 10 points per game. The Miami Heat and the Boston Celtics success in these playoffs displays a competitive superiority of team basketball, with any rotation player having the ability to make a slight swing to notch another mark in the win category. Firstly, the Miami Heat during these playoffs have been incredibly shocking—so far, the Miami Heat are 8-1 in the playoffs. Before the regular season, I recall many analysts and fans alike arguing whether the team would make it in the playoffs. Now, the team has a realistic chance to make the NBA Finals. And without a clear superstar on the team, one must attribute this teams' success with Erik Spoelstra's amazing coaching staff and the hardcore, give-all culture the Miami Heat demand. Jimmy Butler, while not an amazing scorer, has worked beautifully within this team

as a do-it-all leader. Bam Adebayo has quietly held the paint defensively and can get buckets when called upon. However, one of the most surprising players is Goran Dragic. At 33 years old, Goran is averaging 21 points, 4 assists, and a steal with a true shooting of 56%. Not only is he a great teammate, but he verifies the work ethic of the Miami Heat through his excellence as a pure point guard. And while 4 assists aren't much for a point guard, it should be noted that the main 9-man rotation averages over an assist a game, leading to a beautiful passing clinic that toppled the Milwaukee Bucks. And of course, the young shooting duo of Tyler Herro and Duncan Robinson has provided Miami with the modern spacing that NBA basketball requires in today's league. Miami is truly a conglomerate of unselfish, dedicated players combined with an excellent coaching staff that has the means to bring a title home. The Celtics, on the other hand, do have star power—however, this cannot discredit the team's unselfish basketball as well. Jason Tatum has taken an amazing leap in these playoffs, averaging 25 points, 4 assists, and 8.5 rebounds per game on a true shooting percentage of 57%. His scoring ability has created an undeniable gravitational force around him, allowing the offense to move around the ball with ease. So far, 7 rotation players average over an assist per game, with 6 rotation players averaging over 10 points per game. The Celtics so far in the playoffs have shamed the Philadelphia 76ers in a sweep, a team that was chosen by many analysts as the favorites for the NBA title. In the next series versus the former champions, the Toronto Raptors, the

Celtics shut down Pascal Siakam which forced the Raptors to rely on an aging Kyle Lowry. While the series did go to 7 games, it's worth noting the structural elegance the Raptors have had the past couple of years. The Raptors, behind the coaching of Nick Nurse, have proven themselves as one of the most defensively intelligent teams in the league and my personal favorite for the title—however, the Celtics proved to be a better team offensively, with players like Kemba Walker, Marcus Smart, Daniel Theis, and Jaylen Brown taking a large portion of the load off of Tatum's back. If any team has a chance to take down the sweltering Miami Heat, it's the locked and loaded Boston Celtics. While the Eastern Conference Finals matchup is an unexpected one, I would argue that it is the best possible scenario for watching good basketball. Each team

will play with a rugged style that attempts to get everyone involved. Both teams are unproven—however, this will only inspire each squad to push forward to create one of the most unexpected finals berths in NBA history. I fully expect that this series will be a long, brutal series in which both teams fight until the last dying breath. Not many expected the NBA Bubble to bring out the best in players—however, we're now witnessing NBA history as lower-seeded teams fight for the chance to take home the Larry O' Brien trophy. May the best team win.

In-Person, cont'd
Anxiety and Depression Association of America, "About 20 percent of Americans with an anxiety or mood disorder such as depression have an alcohol or other substance use disorder." This contributes to another already raging epidemic that is plaguing America: drug overdoses. According to the CDC, accidents or unintentional injuries, a category that include drug overdoses,

is the third leading cause of death in America. Not only is mental illness exacerbated, but learning is hindered as well. Hampden-Sydney's President, Larry Stimpert, summarized it best: "technology cannot mimic the quality of face-to-face interaction. Something quite remarkable and rewarding happens in a classroom when professor and student are engaged in teaching and learning, ideas are presented and debated, the logic of arguments can be contested, professors have opportunities to model intellectual curiosity and creativity, and insights emerge." Stimpert is absolutely correct. The impact of a college education is radically reduced when switched to online learning. Given the relatively low risk COVID-19 poses to college aged students, increases in mental illness, and faulty education of virtual learning; Hampden-Sydney was entirely in the right in their decision to hold in person learning. However, some critics will say in person classes greatly increases the likelihood of death among students and fac-

ulty. These people are not fluent in the statistics, and instead rely on petty tactics that appeal to emotions. Demagoguery and fear mongering should not dictate policy.

Beer, cont'd
pleasure simply because of the academic benefits; one ought to read for pleasure for the way in which it benefits the soul. A good and well-written story will stay with an individual for their entire life, and going back to one of your favorite books can feel like visiting an old friend. Far better would it be for the College to allow students to spend unused Tiger Dollars on books they could read for pleasure than to allow students to give themselves yet another distraction. Although the pleasure of beer is wonderful and thrilling, the pleasure of a book is deep and lasting. Plus, a well-stocked bookshelf looks much better than a bookshelf lined with empty cans of Natty Light. The next time you crack open a beer, think about a book you have always wanted to read, and just give it a try.

Sept 10, 2020: A Historic Day for Sports

MICHAEL HARRIS '22
STAFF WRITER

Due to the current pandemic the sports world has seemingly been on hold, especially in America. But, with COVID-19 cases and deaths slowly coming down and the determination for us to have sports, the reality is finally possible. September 10th was truly a great day if you are a sports fan. September 10th was the first time in history that the WNBA, NBA, MLB, NHL, NFL, and MLS played a game on the same day. This the largest assortment of games in different leagues in history. This definitely offers a glimmer of hope in what seems to be a dark time. The WNBA is

going strong, the NBA is beginning to heat up, and all other sports leagues are just getting started to begin amazing seasons. In terms of civil justice and protesting it is no secret that all of these leagues have played their part in participating in protests. Now that the NFL is back on they showed solidarity with BLM and those fighting for social justice by having a moment of silence and kneeling at the Chiefs vs Texans game. Despite this protest not taking place during the national anthem and being peaceful, players were still met with boos. Regardless of that, the sports world will continue to fight for equality while still providing us fans with plenty of entertainment. Since most leagues are just starting their

season there is not much news out yet besides the NBA. And as we all know the NBA Finals are not too far away. The ECF is already set with the Heat battling the Celtics. The WCF is not definite yet but it is anticipated that it will be a battle of LA with the Lakers and Clippers going at it. However, the Nuggets have made a strong case to be in the WCF after winning game 5. Either way, this year's NBA playoffs have proven to be exciting. It is very important in these times that we take advantage of the unity that sports brings to us. We have to remember that athletes are humans too and are affected by the state of our nation regardless of how much money they have. We have seen what happens to us when we do

not stay informed and allow ignorance to fuel our anger for one another. The beautiful thing about sports is that despite our differences in who we believe is the best player or team we get together and celebrate something we love. In order to enjoy these games, we must first love each other. The things happening today go so much deeper than a game or points on a scoreboard. As men becoming good citizens it is on us to be better than those around us. At HSC we are brothers, students, athletes, etc. We all have a responsibility to love our brothers and learn how to approach one another with respect rather than animosity. It starts with us gentlemen. Together we can make a change.

THE BACK PAGE

Editorial, cont'd

your task is to choose between C and D or to choose between 3 and 4. If you are a student, your task is not to make a decision based on the effectiveness of masks and social distancing—that task belongs to the members of the College who decided that holding classes in-person was the right decision (C or D). Rather, it is our task as students to choose whether or not we are going to distance and wear masks (3 or 4). Now, the question for students is: Do I want to pursue a scenario in which we will certainly be sent home (4), or do I want to pursue a scenario in which we have at least the chance of staying on campus (3)?

If ever there existed the opportunity for a young man to impart a massive change—whether good or bad—upon his community, this semester was it.

Few people actually seem to know what the threshold number of cases for being sent home is, but conceivably—and quite plausibly—we can imagine a scenario in which a single case means the difference between stifling the education of hundreds of students and threatening the livelihoods of dozens more members of staff at the College. Just as conceivably, we can imagine a scenario in which the decision of a single student could make him that single case that pushes our tally over the threshold and ruins the semester for everyone.

The decision to attend a party at another college or invite a few guests over could mean the difference between returning to virtual learning and allowing everyone to get the most out of Hampden-Sydney.

In *The Histories*, the historian Herodotus recounts the story of Croesus, the extraordinarily wealthy king of the Lydians. At one point in the story, Croesus declares that he wants to conquer the Persians. When Sandanis, one of

his advisors, hears of the king's intentions, he advises the king not to go to war, because the Persians are impoverished and enjoy few luxuries. If Croesus succeeds, Sandanis explains, he will be only marginally wealthier and more powerful than he was before the war. But if he fails, Sandanis assures him, he will lose everything he has.

Croesus ignores the advice of Sandanis. And by the end of the story, the once-great king of the Lydians is nothing more than a slave who keeps his life only by the grace of the Persian king.

Choosing not to conquer the Persians was not a lot to ask of Croesus. And choosing to wear a mask is not a lot to ask of us. We have so much more to lose by not wearing masks than we have to gain by not wearing them.

Postseason, cont'd

The Marlins were expected to finish with one of the worst records in the league coming off a terrible season last year, but their young team, helped with veteran pick-ups like Corey Dickerson and Jesus Aguilar this past offseason, have led the way. On the offensive side, third-baseman Brian Anderson has continued to develop into a solid regular at the hot corner.

The Marlins traded for Starling Marte from the Arizona Diamondbacks to help sure up the offensive. The pitching has led the way for the Marlins, and it's the biggest reason why they just took over second place in the National League East, passing the Phillies.

The Cubs are a surprising team since other teams in their division were predicated to be more competitive. During the offseason, the Cubs were viewed as a middle of the pack club, even in their division.

The Cincinnati Reds were expected to be a lot better since they formed a stacked rotation. The Brewers, even though they lost Yasmani Grandal, were still expected to play better, but Christian Yelich got off to a terrible start.

The Cardinals are still playoff hopefuls, but they have played .500 baseball up to this point, but Jack Flaherty is an ace, and this could be a team to surprise some people when the playoffs come around. So, the surprise that is associated from the Cubs isn't really because of what the Cubs have done recently; its more about how much their division rivals have disappointed.

On the other hand, Yu Darvish's dominance has been a bit of

a surprise. He seemed to be past his prime, but he's having his best season yet, putting himself firmly in the Cy Young award conversation.

The Padres are one of the hottest teams in baseball right now. They are second place in the NL West, but that's only because they share a division with the Los Angeles Dodgers, who are bulldozing anything or anyone in their way.

The Padres are one of the most talented and deepest teams in

the National League, and they have a better record than the Braves and the Cubs, each is in first place in their divisions. The Padres loaded up at the trade deadline, and they are reaping the awards of their acquisitions. They have won six straight, and the Padres will continue to pile wins until the end of the season.

With just a few weeks left in the season, there is still a lot of baseball to be played, so who knows which team will be the next

surprise. Teams like the Marlins may continue to surprise, being led by their young rotation, but they will probably fade out by the season's end.

As much as I'd like to run through the whole league, throwing around predictions, this season has been a weird one, and I don't think anyone can predict how this season is going to end, and I'm sure there will be more surprises once the season comes to an end.

Christians' Corner

De Communisme

ISAAC WHITFIELD '21
STAFF WRITER

The Presidential election is now only a few months away now and there has been a lot of talk about systems of government. There is a growing sense in this country, perceived or otherwise, that socialism is not only the correct choice but the moral one.

Bernie Sanders identifies himself as a "Democratic Socialist", as if the "Democrat" in there makes any difference. Just like North Korea is called the "Democratic People's Republic of Korea", just throwing the word "republic" in there doesn't make it a republic. Words and labels matter.

Of course, I understand that there is a distinction between socialist and Communism. As I said above labels matter; however, as Merriam Webster defines socialism: "a stage of society in Marxist theory transitional between capitalism and communism and distinguished by unequal distribution of goods and pay according to work done."

That is why many Americans are worried about the Bernie Sanders types, and they ought to worry. This is a road to revolution.

Communism has been tried time and time again that not only fails but costs a great amount of blood for a society to free itself from this evil.

Did you know that you can care about poor people and not be

Communist? It's true! There are many charitable organizations, including the Christian Church both Catholic and Protestant. Which is partly why I care so much about this issue.

Christians are persecuted under communism because Christianity is subversive. Under Communism, the state becomes God, the ultimate giver and, more times than not, the taker away. The taker away of property, liberty, food, and life.

The problem comes with the desire for more. Greed has a corrupting influence that rots the soul, always wanting more temporal things. Thus, always with communism.

Stalin became dictator of the U.S.S.R in 1922, he died in 1953. In those 31 years, Stalin managed to kill around 20 million people. There are other numbers out there because of WW2 and various famines that were most likely caused by his government, but we will stick with that number.

needlessly and for what? For modernization? For the respective "glorious leader?" This is nothing more than an experiment in human cruelty.

The experiment continues today in Venezuela, North Korea, and Vietnam just to name a few. We need to stop trying. The argument that real Communism has never been tried would firstly, probably be surprising to Stalin and Mao, and secondly is just false.

It has been tried, many times. All over the world. The result? Over 100 million dead in the course of a century. When will we say enough is enough? When will Communism be buried in a shallow grave along with all of its other victims?

Reading this might make you uncomfortable. If it does ask yourself why? Perhaps it is good to embrace this discomfort and introspect on why you believe what you believe. Being Christian I have to do this almost daily. I am always open to discussing but take head dear reader, I may have a hard time hearing you over the pile of bodies that Communism is directly responsible for. God love you.

Of course, this is just my humble interpretation. There are over a billion Christians, each with their own views. I am always open to discussion and criticism.

Please email me more questions at whitfieldI21@hsc.edu, and I will endeavor to answer them as best as I can. Non nobis Domine.



As you read this, red China is persecuting approximant 1 million Chinese Catholics in what's known as the "underground church." They must go underground because they are loyal to God, and not President Jinping. And Jinping's power is growing.

Communism is not about caring for those who have not. This is about power. Now power is not intrinsically evil; if it is used well it can foster higher goods for people.

In China, under Communist rule the great leap forward killed approximately 45 million people. That's just the four-year process. Not even counting the civil war and other mass killings in China, and by the way is still happening, google "Uyghurs."

The scope of death is hard to wrap a mind around. We like to throw stats around, but each number is a person. With thoughts and desires, that suffered so



The Hampden-Sydney Tiger Staff, circa 1978. Courtesy: the Kaleidoscope

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